

1 Samuel 17:40-47 - Thursday, April 10th, 2014

- Last week we left David finally getting the green light from Saul to go ahead and fight Goliath after failed attempts at talking David out of it.
- Then after acquiescing to David's insistence, Saul puts his armor on David only to have him take it off saying he cannot even walk in them.
- We'll pick it up in back in verse thirty-eight so as to hit the ground running as we see David prepare for what actually becomes a non-battle.

(38) So Saul clothed David with his armor, and he put a bronze helmet on his head; he also clothed him with a coat of mail. (39) David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested *them*. And David said to Saul, "I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested *them*." So David took them off.

- Couple of thoughts here, the first of which we ended with last week as it relates to just being who God has called and equipped you to be.
- In other words, don't try to be someone you're not, it doesn't work, and it won't fit this because, God's calling and enabling is unique to you.
- In my personal experience, I've become keenly aware of how God tailor fits the calling and equipping to where He calls, the one He calls.

- The second thought on David's refusal of Saul's armor has to do with him saying he can't walk with them because he had not tested them.
- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is not testing them carries with it the idea of not being accustomed to it.
- The point being is that David wasn't accustomed to using that weaponry and instead was more accustomed to using a different weaponry.

- More specifically, Saul's weaponry was representative of the carnal, whereas conversely, David's would be representative of the spiritual.
- It's evidenced by Saul, through the lens of the flesh, seeing the natural, and David, through the lens of the Spirit, seeing the supernatural.
- Moreover, Saul was only accustomed to the carnal weaponry in the natural, whereas David was only accustomed to the spiritual weaponry.

One commentator said it best this way, "Press some people to their exercise of prayer, or any other piece of the armor of God, and they must say, if they say truly, as here, I cannot do withal, for I have not been accustomed to it."

2 Corinthians 10:3-4 NKJV (3) For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. (4) For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Charles Spurgeon - "Carnal weapons suited not the man whose reliance was upon the Lord, neither did they suit our Lord, to Whom they were offered, only to be declined. To this day our Lord's battles are not fought with the weapons of human force, but with those of spiritual energy, His warriors are not clad in martial mail, but in the armor of righteousness.

(40) Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

- We have here yet another one of those places in the Word of God, where we find that there are specific details given to us in the narrative.
- Whenever we come across such details, we would do well to ask why it is that the Holy Spirit deemed it necessary to have them recorded.
- In other words, why do we need to know that David, with staff in hand, chose for himself five smooth stones for the sling that's in his hand?

- Some suggest it was because David may have doubted God but the problem with this is that it just doesn't fit with David's fearlessness.
- Others suggest it was because Goliath had four other brothers however; the problem with this is that the Bible doesn't specifically say this.
- So, the question remains, why is it that David would choose five stones and not just one or two, and why do we need to know it was five.

- I believe there are no less than two reasons for this, one of which has to do with his plan militarily and the other God's plan metaphorically.
- Let me explain, first, this was a brilliant military strategy, such that David was prepared for the possibility of the Philistine's attacking him.
- To me, this speaks to how we should always be prepared when it comes to the spiritual battle, not being ignorant of the wiles of the Devil.

Ephesians 6:11-12 NKJV Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

2 Corinthians 2:11 NIV in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

- The second reason was that this is God's plan of salvation by grace in the sense that in scripture, the number five is the number of grace.
- Because we've studied this in depth in the past, I won't take too much time on this other than pointing out the significance of this number.
- I'll start with what I believe is one of the most fascinating accounts of how the number five is a type of salvation by grace and through faith.

- What I'm speaking of is Genesis 17:5, where God says Abram he will no longer be called Abram, but he shall be called Abraham instead.
- Then, subsequently, He changes Sarai's name to Sarah, and it's not so much "that" God changes their names, it's "how" He changes them.
- Namely, He takes the fifth letter in the Hebrew alphabet, and places it as the fifth letter in their names, pointing to God's grace through faith.

- Here's how I get there, in the Hebrew culture, even to this day, the name describes the nature, and with Abram, it's by grace through faith.
- Abram (father of many), Abraham (father of many nations), but he's the father of none, thus it's by grace through faith in the promised son.
- It's interesting to note by way of the typology, the promised son Isaac would paint a prophetic picture pointing to the person of Jesus Christ.

- It's also interesting to note that the tablets of stone with the Ten Commandments were on two tablets each containing five commandments.
- What's even more interesting is that the fifth commandment is the only one of the Ten Commandments that has what I call a grace clause.
- I'm of the belief that this fifth commandment, which is the first and only commandment with a promise also points to our salvation by grace.

Ephesians 6:1-3 NIV Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— (3) "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

(41) So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield *went* before him. (42) And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him; for he was *only* a youth, ruddy and good-looking. (43) So the Philistine said to David, "Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. (44) And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!"

- Perhaps you'll indulge me for just a moment as I share something that I just can't help but wonder about concerning both of their camps.
- Let me explain, I wonder what the camp of the Philistines is thinking right about now as they see this teenager coming to fight their Goliath.
- I also wonder what the camp of the Israelites are thinking right about now as they see the opposite of their champion going to fight Goliath.

- Here's where I'm going with this, David has not yet said even one word, that comes next in verse forty-five, while Goliath has spoken many.
- In fact, I count a total of five things Goliath says and does as ironic as that may seem all of which David has yet to act upon and respond to.
- However, at this point, one would have to concede David is toast, for lack of a better way to say it and as such this would be hard to watch.

- The reason I point this out is because it speaks to how it is that our enemy, like their Goliath, can appear impossible to ever be defeatable.
- So much so that we are prone to cower, falter and just surrender to the inevitable under the banner of the utter impossibility of our victory.
- Furthermore, it doesn't help matters any when one listens to, and becomes fearful of what I'll call the ferocious five coming from the enemy.

THE ENEMY'S FEROCIOUS FIVE

- 1) Drawing near to us: Just as Goliath began drawing near to David, so too does the enemy begin by drawing near to us so as to destroy us.
- 2) Looking about for us: Just as Goliath is looking about for David, so too does the enemy prowl about like a lion seeking so as to devour us.
- 3) Disdaining of us: Just as Goliath has disdain for David so too does the enemy disdain and hate us so much so he desires to annihilate us.
- 4) Belittling toward us: Just as Goliath is belittling towards David so too does the enemy both accuse and confuse us so as to discourage us.
- 5) Cursing upon us: Just as Goliath is pronouncing a curse upon David, so too does the enemy condemn us so as to heap the guilt upon us.

(45) Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (46) This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. (47) Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle *is* the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

- I would venture to say that these words spoken by David are amongst the most, if not the most, profound and powerful words ever spoken.
- While I'm keenly aware saying this may be perceived as sensational and provocative, one needs to consider how David is a type of Christ.
- Though we'll go more in depth into this typology at the conclusion of the chapter, knowing this is germane to our understanding of it now.

- Chiefly because of what David says in verse forty-five; "I come to you in the name of the Lord, the God of ... Israel, whom you have defied.
- Moreover, it's because of what David says in verse forty-seven; "the Lord does not save with sword and spear for the battle is the Lord's.
- Perhaps better said, this battle is not Goliath against the David its Goliath against David's God such that the battle belongs to David's God.

- Were the battle between David and Goliath, not between God and Goliath, then there's no hope of victory both for them then, and us now.
- In other words, our only hope of tasting the sweet cup of victory, is in our greater than David, none other than the person of Jesus Christ.
- By that I mean, just as their victory over Goliath came vis-à-vis David, so too does our victory over death come vis-à-vis the root of David.

Revelation 22:16 NIV "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

- Be that as it may, I know I run the risk of reading too much into this but there's something else here that assures us the victory as believers.
- Notice how David's spoken word is that which has the final word, specifically in verse forty-five when David speaks of the name of the Lord.
- Here's what I'm thinking, David knew Goliath had sealed his fate by virtue of his blasphemous words defying the name and Word of God.

- The problem is, the Name of God and the Word of God are the nature of God and the attributes of God both of which are exalted above all.
- Because no thing nor no one will ever prevail against nor be exalted above God's Word or God's name, victory had already been wrought.
- It's for this reason that David, knowing God's Word and God's name are magnified above all, could speak these words with his whole heart.

Psalms 138:1-2 A Psalm Of David. I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You. (2) I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

- Allow me to take it one step further and suggest that woven into the fabric of this truth we find the key to victory in our Christian experience.
- Simply put the victory over any temptation and test has already been won by virtue of being against the name of God and the Word of God.
- Just as David is victorious over Goliath after 40 days, so too is Jesus, the root of David victorious over the Devil after 40 days of fasting.

- The common denominator in both victories is that David and Jesus defeated the enemy vis-à-vis the name of God, and the Word of God.
- Here's why, when Goliath defied the name of the Lord, the victory was assured for David who comes against him in the name of the Lord.
- When the Devil perverted the Word of the Lord, so too was the victory was assured for Jesus Who resists him using the Word of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:13-17 NIV Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. (14) Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, (15) and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. (16) In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (17) Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.